



**NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

*Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President*

**Lateral Entry Certificate Program Report**

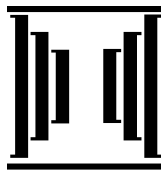
**As presented to**

The Honorable Thom Tillis  
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Phil Berger  
President Pro Tempore

April 15, 2011

Prepared by  
Antonio Jordan  
Program Coordinator  
919-807-7133  
[jordana@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:jordana@nccommunitycolleges.edu)



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***Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President***

April 15, 2011

The Honorable Thom Tillis  
Speaker of the House  
North Carolina House of Representatives  
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2304  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

The Honorable Phil Berger  
President Pro Tempore  
North Carolina Senate  
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2008  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dear Representative Tillis and Senator Berger:

This letter serves as the 2010-2011 Report for the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee regarding the Lateral Entry Certificate program available through the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS).

Lateral entry is a teacher licensing option which provides an opportunity for skilled individuals with proven subject knowledge skills to hold a provisional teaching license while completing the coursework and testing requirements for holding a full teaching license. The Lateral Entry Certificate program was initially approved on April 22, 2006 (Session Law 2005-198 House Bill 563). There are 29 community colleges approved to offer it.

Community colleges have offered the courses from the lateral entry certificate in a variety of ways in order to best meet the needs of the students. Courses have been offered as face-to-face (traditional) classes, on-line classes and hybrid classes. In addition, the courses have been scheduled in ways to include utilizing the entire 16 week semester or in intensive 8 week blocks, as well as other scheduling options.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, 15 community colleges enrolled a total of 210 students into lateral entry certificate coursework. See attached chart for detailed enrollment information for 2006-2010.

The community college's lateral entry program is not seamless. There are currently nine competencies required to become a lateral entry teacher. Four of the six competencies that community colleges are allowed to offer can be completed through in-service training by the Local Education Agency (LEA). Furthermore, although students can meet six of the required competencies at the local community college, they have to complete additional coursework at a senior institution in order to meet all nine of the required competencies.

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MAILING ADDRESS: 5001 MAIL SERVICE CENTER ~ RALEIGH, NC 27699-5001

Street Address: 200 West Jones ~ Raleigh, NC 27603 ~ 919-807-7100 ~ Fax 919-807-7164  
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Representative Thom Tillis  
Senator Phil Berger  
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In 2010, the NCCCS Office surveyed community colleges approved to offer the lateral entry program to gather input on program successes and challenges. Some of the challenges reported by the colleges were: low enrollment, budget constraints, and lack of advertising for the lateral entry program. Suggestions for improved efficiency included a centralized location for assisting students, clear articulation from community colleges to universities, and maintaining communication between all stakeholders.

NCCCS understands that data-driven decisions are crucial to inform the work needed to revise the guidelines for lateral entry. NCCCS and Department of Public Instruction staff will continue to work together on developing a process for the revisions that are needed to the NCCCS lateral entry curriculum standard and coursework.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

R. Scott Ralls

RSR/AJ/gr  
Attachment

c: Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee  
Mr. Kennon Briggs  
Dr. Sharon Morrissey  
Mr. Van Wilson  
Ms. Jennifer Frazelle  
Mr. Antonio Jordan